

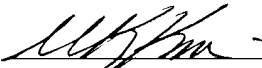
Applicants, however, respectfully submit that new claims 3-27 describe with more particularity the invention of claims 1-2. Applicants submit that claims 3-27 are not directed to an independent/separate invention from claims 1-2. For example, both claims 1 and 3 are drawn to methods for finding functional links between at least two polypeptides (proteins). They both seek to achieve the same result.

Moreover, both claims use the combination of the Rosetta Stone and Phylogenetic Profile methods to arrive at polypeptides that are functionally linked. The Rosetta Stone method is described in steps (a) and (b) of claim 1 and, in greater detail, in steps (a)(i)-(iv) of claims 3, 9, and 19. The Phylogenetic Profile method is described in steps (c) to (e) of claim 1 and, in greater detail, in steps (b)(i)-(vi) of claims 3, 9, and 19. Accordingly, claims 3-27 are not an invention separate from claims 1-2. Applicants respectfully request consideration of claims 3-27 in the instant application.

Applicants submit that no fees are necessitated by the instant Response. However, should any fees be due or any credits refunded, please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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